

REMARKS

Claims 27-39 are pending in this application. Claims 34, 37 and 38 have been amended by the present Amendment. No new subject matter is added by the amendment to claims 34, 37 and 38.

WITHDRAWAL OF REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection of claims 34-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 27-33 are allowed and that claims 37-39 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 34-36 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,398,870 ("Kaya") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,753,085 ("Morton"); and (2) Kaya in view of Morton, and, if necessary, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,575,852 ("Chase") and 3,924,565 ("Benner").

Claim 34 has been amended to recite, inter alia, that the transfer unit includes an interrupter to stop the transfer unit after the detector detects a foreign matter, which incorporates some of the limitations of claim 37.

Based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 37, and the failure of the cited references to disclose or suggest the claimed interrupter, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 34 as amended is patentable over the cited references.

For at least the reason that claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 34, claims 35 and 36 are also submitted to be patentably distinct over the cited references.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CLAIM 38

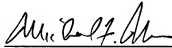
Claim 38 has been amended to rewrite claim 38 in independent form to include all the limitations of base claim 34.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of all the dependent claims because Applicants submit that for at least similar reasons as why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed, *supra*, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Morano", is written over a horizontal line.

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